

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9568

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF ICRC AO SF WA

SUBJECT: ICRC ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA

REF: GENEVA 2245

1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, #1267, RECEIVED BY MISSION
APRIL 26, 1976, FROM ICRC GENEVA. QUOTE:

PRESS RELEASE NO. 1267

26 APRIL 1976

RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA:
THE PRA TAKES OVER

GENEVA (ICRC)-THE AUTHORITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
ANGOLA (PRA) HAVE INFORMED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
RED CROSS (ICRC) OF THEIR WISH TO HAVE THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ANGOLESE POPULATION CARRIED OUT BY
NATIONAL AGENCIES, PREFERABLY THROUGH THE NATIONAL RED CROSS
SOCIETY NOW BEING REORGANIZED. NO DATE HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY
THE LUANDA AUTHORITIES FOR THE TAKE-OVER.

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AT THE END OF FEBRUARY THE ICRC HAD SUBMITTED TO THE PRA A

SIX-MONTH POST-WAR EMERGENCY PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO SUPPLEMENT THE HUMANITARIAN WORK WHICH THE ICRC HAD BEEN CARRYING OUT SINCE JUNE 1975. THE NEW PROGRAMME WAS TO PROVIDE MAINLY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO GIVE THE AUTHORITIES TIME TO SET UP A NATIONAL MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

UPON RECEIPT OF THE PRA REPLY, THE ICRC DECIDED TO RECALL THE PERSONNEL ON STAND-BY. IT ALSO EXAMINED ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHASING OUT ITS ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA.

AS IT HAS DONE SINCE IT FIRST WENT INTO ACTION IN ANGOLA, THE ICRC WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE NATIONAL RED CROSS AND WITH THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES SO THAT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF EACH INSTITUTION.

2. BEHIND THE MILD LANGUAGE OF THE RELEASE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ICRC HAS BEEN ASKED OUT OF ANGOLA. SIEVERTS WILL PROBE THE SUBJECT DURING THE SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HOCHE TOMORROW.

3. WILL ADVISE. DALE

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